

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-4 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 are independent. The remaining claims depend directly from independent claim 2.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify that even when the image output section is set to output an image reproduced from the first image reproduce section, the first control section is able to change over the image input source of the image output section to the second reproduce section. Support for the aforementioned amendments to claims 1 and 2 can be found, for example, in Figure 2 and the associated text. No new matter has been added by any of the aforementioned amendments.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,400,280 (“Osakabe”). To the extent that the rejection applies to the amended claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” MPEP § 2131. Applicant asserts that Osakabe fails to disclose all of the limitations of amended independent claims 1-2.

Embodiments of the claimed invention are directed to a composite audio video apparatus (including multiple reproducing sections such as a VCR and a DVD player) able to automatically display images. For example, referring to Figure 2, when a user pushes a button of a remote controller (5) for controlling, e.g., a video cassette in the VCR of the apparatus, both the VCR control section (21) and the DVD control section (31) receive the command. Thus, both the VCR and the DVD control sections (21, 31) determine whether the command pertains to them. In this embodiment, since the command was directed to the VCR, the VCR control section (21) will analyze the command, and if necessary, output the result to the television set, provided that the image output section (106) is set to output images from the VCR. Alternatively, if the image output section (106) is set to output images from the DVD player, then the VCR control section (21) will send a direction signal to the DVD control section (31) to changeover the image input source of the image output section (i.e., from displaying DVD images to displaying Video images). Advantageously, the image changeover can be automatically conducted without a users input. See e.g., Published Specification, Figure 2 and associated text.

Accordingly, amended independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

"A composite audio-video apparatus comprising:
...an image output section for selectively outputting an image reproduced by the first or the second image reproduce section; wherein the first control section includes a changeover control section for controlling to change over an image input source of the image output section;
the second control section outputs a direction signal to the first control section only when the operating command inputted from the operation command informing section is a specific operation command which has been previously set for the second image reproduce section; and
the first control section changes over the image output section so that an image reproduced by the second image reproduce section is outputted in the case where the first control section receives the direction signal even when the image output section is set to output an image reproduced by the first image reproduce section, and the first control section changes over the image output section so that the image reproduced by the first image

reproduce section is outputted in the case where the operation command inputted from the operation command informing section is a specific operation command which has been previously set for the first image reproduce section.

Independent claim 2 includes similar limitations. The aforementioned limitations explicitly require an apparatus that includes: (i) an image output section for selectively outputting an image; (ii) a first control section (*e.g.*, of a VCR) that includes a changeover control section for controlling (*i.e.*, changing) an image input source (*e.g.*, VCR or DVD) of the image output section (to display images on a screen), such that the first control section can change over the image output section to display images reproduced by a second image reproduce section (*e.g.*, DVD) even when the image output section is set to output images reproduced by the first image reproduce section (*e.g.*, VCR); and (iii) a second control section (*e.g.*, of a DVD player) that outputs a direction signal to the first control section, upon receiving a command to reproduce an image for the second image reproduce section (*e.g.*, DVD player). In contrast, Osakabe is directed to a bi-directional remote control for transmitting commands and receiving information from multiple devices (*e.g.*, VCR, DVD player, digital camcorder), and is completely silent with respect to the aforementioned limitations.

Osakabe fails to disclose selectively outputting an image

Specifically, the Examiner equates the digital TV (21) of Osakabe with an image output section for selectively outputting an image. *See* Action, page 2. However, Applicants respectfully assert that the digital TV (21) of Osakabe cannot be equated with an image output section as required by the claimed invention. Rather, Osakabe discloses that the digital TV (21) may be connected to multiple devices (*e.g.*, VCR, DVD player), such that each of the devices are separately connected to the digital TV via a serial bus. *See* Osakabe, column 7, lines 35-47.

Data transmitted from each of the devices to the digital TV (21) is “converted to a digital signal stream” (*i.e.*, by the digital TV (21)) before being output to a display. *Id.* It appears from the disclosure of Osakabe that the digital TV (21) can receive data from any of the multiple devices at all times, and is completely silent with respect to selectively choosing received data to output (only discloses outputting data as soon as it is converted to digital stream). Thus, Osakabe is completely silent with respect to selectively outputting image data.

Osakabe fails to disclose a control section having a changeover control

Further, as discussed previously, independent claims 1 and 2 require a first control section (*e.g.*, of a VCR) that includes a changeover control section for controlling (*i.e.*, changing) an image input source (*e.g.*, VCR or DVD) of the image output section (to display images on a screen), such that the first control section can change over the image output section to display images reproduced by a second image reproduce section (*e.g.*, DVD) even when the image output section is set to output images reproduced by the first image reproduce section (*e.g.*, VCR). The Examiner relies on a portion of Osakabe (column 6, line 57 – column 7, line 12) as illustrating the aforementioned limitation.

However, Applicant respectfully assert that the cited portion (*Id.*), as acknowledged by the Examiner, only discloses that commands transmitted from the digital TV to an intended device are directed by a destination_ID included in the command. *See* Action, page 2. Applicants respectfully assert that a destination_ID cannot be equated with a changeover control for controlling changing over an image input source of the image output section. Specifically, a destination_ID as disclosed by Osakabe, merely routes the signal to the appropriate device, and does not indicate to an image output section to change from one image input source to another image input source.

Even assuming *arguendo* that the Examiner still equates the destination_ID of Osakabe with the changeover control of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully asserts that Osakabe does not disclose a destination_ID provided by a control section, but rather, the destination_ID is embedded in the command sent by the remote control. *See* Osakabe, column 7, lines 1-10. Specifically, each control section, as recited by independent claims 1 and 2, is associated with its corresponding image reproduction section (e.g., VCR or DVD player). Applicant respectfully asserts that a command for housing a destination_ID cannot be equated with a control section of the claimed invention. Thus, Osakabe is completely silent with respect to a first control section having a changeover control.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully assert that Osakabe is completely silent with respect to a first control section that can change over the image input source to the second image reproduce section even when the image output section is already set to output images from the first image reproduce section. Specifically, the path taken by a signal outputted through the digital TV (21) of Osakabe is never preset. As discussed previously, when transmitting a signal within the digital TV (21), the signal is merely routed to its destination, and there is no “changeover control” to switch one image input source to another image input source. Rather, all of the input sources are connected over a serial bus and either one of them, at all times, can be output by the digital TV (21). *See e.g.*, Osakabe, Figure 3 and associated text). Thus, because Osakabe never discloses an image output section already set to output images from a specific image reproduce section, Osakabe necessarily fails to disclose changing over between image input sources.

Osakabe fails to disclose a control section able to send direction signals to another control section

Further still, as discussed previously, independent claims 1 and 2 require a second control section (*e.g.*, of a DVD player) that outputs a direction signal to the first control section, upon receiving a command to reproduce an image for the second image reproduce section (*e.g.*, DVD player).

The Examiner relies on a portion of Osakabe (Figure 3) to illustrate that the second control section sends a direction signal. *See Action*, page 3. Specifically, the Examiner interprets Osakabe as disclosing “the DVD 24 communicates back to the Digital TV 21, and commands and data are relayed through the DVCR 23.” *Id.* However, Applicant respectfully assert that Osakabe, in particular the cited portion (*Id.*), fails to teach, suggest, and disclose the aforementioned assertion. In fact, Osakabe actually discloses that once the digital TV (21) receives the remote control signal for a specific device, *e.g.*, digital camcorder 25, the digital TV (21) sends the control command to the digital camcorder (25) which then sends a response back to the digital TV, (*i.e.*, digital camcorder never sends the response via DVCR as asserted by the Examiner). *See e.g.*, Osakabe, column 5, line 59 – column 6, line 17. Moreover, the multiple devices in Osakabe never communicate with each other, and, thus, it logically follows that a direction signal is not sent from one control section to another, each control section being associated with an image reproduction section (*e.g.*, VCR or DVD player). Thus, Osakabe is completely silent with respect to a second control section which can send a directional signal to a first control section.

Because Osakabe fails to disclose selectively outputting image data and control sections that can control change over of image input sources to an image output setction, Osakabe fails to disclose all the limitations of independent claims 1 and 2. Thus, independent

claims 1 and 2 are patentable over Osakabe. Dependent claims are patentable over Osakabe for at least the same reasons as independent claim 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

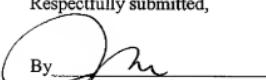
Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/128001).

Dated: November 5, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By _____


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